

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06

EB-07 COME-00 SEC-01 FEA-01 OES-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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P 231625Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 336

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: FMG QUERY ABOUT ASHLAND/CIA TESTIMONY

REF: A. USIA 16519

B. STATE 153507

1. MAJOR GENERAL EKPO, COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CALLED NOON JULY 23 AND WAS REFERRED TO CHARGE. EKPO TOLD CHARGE HE HAD SEEN REPORT IN LONDON TIMES RE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF ACTIVITIES OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN REPORTED TESTIMONY OF ASHLAND OIL COMPANY WITH RESPECT TO CIA, AND HE WONDERED WHETHER CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATING PROCEEDINGS WERE PUBLIC AND COULD BE PURCHASED. SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE A COPY, PARTICULARLY THE PART CONTAINING ASHLAND TESTIMONY. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH WASHINGTON AND LET GENERAL EKPO KNOW, IF POSSIBLE, BY END OF WEEK. CHARGE SAID THAT IF PROCEEDINGS ARE AVAILABLE, EMBASSY WILL PROCURE A COPY FOR THE GENERAL. LATTER EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND WILL AWAIT OUR RESPONSE.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM PRESS REPORTS (REF A) THAT
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ASHLAND/CIA TESTIMONY CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT FILED BY ASHLAND

WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, NOT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. HAS THIS DOCUMENT BEEN MADE PUBLIC OR WILL IT BE? CAN WE OBTAIN COPY FOR GENERAL EKPO? ARE ANY OTHER AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE SUCH AS COMPANY PRESS RELEASE? REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE.

3. GENERAL EKPO DID NOT REPEAT NOT REFER TO "QUESTIONABLE" PAYMENTS BY ASHLAND IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES INCLUDING NIGERIA (REF B), AND EMBASSY HAS NO INTENTION BRINGING THIS VOLUNTARILY TO HIS ATTENTION. HOWEVER, IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS OF PARA 2, DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THESE PAYMENTS. ACCORDING REF B, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MADE BY ASHLAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SETTLEMENT TERMS OF LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY SEC. IS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT ITSELF AVAILABLE?

4. FYI: ASHLAND/CIA TESTIMONY FIRST REPORTED IN NIGERIAN PRESS JULY 15. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ASHLAND PAYMENTS DISCLOSURE HAS RECEIVED NO NOTICE IN NIGERIAN MEDIA TO DATE..

5. FYI: GENERAL MANAGER OF ASHLAND OIL (NIGERIA) COMPANY UNAVAILABLE TODAY FOR COMMENT, BUT AS OF LAST WEEK HE HAD RECEIVED NO ADVERSE LOCAL REACTION TO ASHLAND/CIA TESTIMONY OR ASHLAND PAYMENTS DISCLOSURE. NEITHER HAD HE RECEIVED DOCUMENTS OR GUIDANCE FROM PARENT COMPANY. END FYI. CROSBY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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